The Member said that, out of the balance of Town Fund amounting to Rs. 23,000, a sum of Rs. 12,000 was required for the works already sanctioned, Rs. 8,000 for the construction of a building for holding the Committee's Office, Rs. 2,000 for other buildings and Rs. 1,000 for a slaughter-house. Further amounts would be required for carrying out certain improvements to the town recently ordered by Government. Thus funds would not be available for the water supply scheme.

The Member pointed out that the Distillery at Nagercoil was a great nuisance. After its establishment in the centre of the town, people could not live there. Though the buildings were constructed at a cost of Rs. 2 lakhs and odd, sufficient arrangements had not been made for the removal of the refuse water from the Distillery. The people could not pass through the adjoining roads, the neighbouring tanks and wells were all contaminated and part of the town where the Distillery was located had become uninhabitable on account of the stinking refuse water. The reservoir constructed for holding the refuse water did not serve the purpose and some other arrangement should be made.

Dewan.—Pending the construction of another wash tank, orders will be issued immediately to arrange for the dirty water collecting there being removed daily.

The Member next stated that two toll-gates at Balamore and Suchindrum had been opened by the P. W. D. just outside the town limits and the Committee was rightly entitled to all the proceeds from the toll-gates after allowing a due share for the maintenance of the roads. He requested that, if the toll-gates are not to be abolished, the collections be made over to the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

103. Necessity for revising the town limits of Neyyattinkara.

Mr. S. Padmanabha Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) said that, of all the 19 T. I. C.'s in the State, the Neyyattinkara T. I. C. was the poorest in point of finance. But for the Government grant of Rs. 500, the financial condition of the Committee would have been worse. Ever since the establishment of the Committee, it had not made any appreciable progress. The reason was that due care was not bestowed in fixing the town limits at the time of the constitution of the Committee. The two important trade centres, *viz.*, Balaramapuram and Aralammudu, were not included within the town limits. The former place deserved a Committee more than Neyyattinkara. As a Conservancy station it cost Rs. 500 annually and its sanitation was in a deplorable condition. If that were included within the Neyyattinkara town limits, Government would gain Rs. 500 per annum. At Aralammudu there were a cattle market and a vegetable market on every Wednesday and Saturday. More than 10,000 persons assembled there on market days and the sanitation of the place was not attended to properly. When the Committee requested Government to include Aralammudu within the town limits, they declined to do so on the ground that the place was beyond three miles from the town. If Government were not inclined to include Balaramapuram within the T. I. C. limits, the places up to the 9th mile stone on the Trivandrum-Nagercoil road might be brought under the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

104. Suggestions for the better administration of the Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) said that the sanitation of the Trivandrum town was in many respects far from satisfactory and the Town Improvement Committee had of late been the subject of much adverse criticism from the general public. The right of the non-official members to point out defects and suggest remedial measures and also the right of interpellation were entirely nullified by the arbitrary manner in which successive Presidents of the Committee had been dealing with them.

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The Member then complained about the arbitrary manner in which the questions put by members were dealt with by the President, and stated that the non-official members who were anxious to take an active part in the working of the Committee were being very much discouraged by the attitude of the official President. He, therefore, urged the necessity for a non-official President for the Committee.

The Member then made the following suggestions to remedy the evils:—

1. *Establishment.* The pay and allowance of the official President was a burden on the Committee and the appointment of a non-official President or of a Bacteriologist as the President would relieve the Committee of a great financial strain. In the alternative the Member suggested that the Sanitary Commissioner be appointed as the President of the Committee and that he be assisted by a non-official Vice-President.

2. *Conservancy.* The removal of rubbish and nightsoil was not attended to properly. They were most injurious to the health of the people in the town. The distribution of carts and bulls for the purpose in the various wards was not properly done. The carts were not repaired and unserviceable ones were not replaced in time. There was no one responsible for the proper condition of the nightsoil carts and they were thrown about on the road sides which was quite undesirable. An officer of the grade of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector should be put in charge of the carts and bulls. The depositing of nightsoil at the beach injuriously affected the public health. Adults and not boys should be appointed as drivers of the carts. The rules sanctioned by Government under date the 26th June 1895 and 10th July 1896, defining the duties of the Health Officer and the Sanitary Inspectors, should be enforced.

3. *Finance.* The assessment of house-tax was done very indiscriminately. The system of imposing tax on the vehicles was not satisfactorily worked. There were certain irregularities in the matter of the collection of scavenging fees. The Revenue Inspector submitted to the Committee a statement for about Rs. 700 on account of arrears of scavenging fees to be written off the accounts as irrecoverable in the Fort Ward alone for the first three quarters of 1094 and that statement included certain items which had already been recovered. The occupants of houses, T. I. C. Nos. 38, 44, 52, 58, 67, 95, 330, 483, 481, 467, 307, 311, 386, 169 B, 169 A and 163 and many others had paid the amounts and the payments were supported by receipts; yet the amounts were shown as irrecoverable. Further, the register of scavenging fees maintained in the office and the duplicates of the receipts granted to the payees were missing and it could not be known how the above statement of irrecoverable amounts was prepared. The Member suggested that the collection of scavenging fees should be entrusted to Section Overseers, as such a step would prevent the writing off of large arrears under that head every year and also reduce the scope for misappropriation of the fees collected by Aminadars.

4. *Overseers.* Only persons holding the School Leaving certificates or at least those who knew how to read and write Malayalam should be appointed as Overseers. Such a step would improve the situation very much and also serve as a source of relief to many qualified men who were unemployed.

Dewan's reply.—A detailed report will be called for from the Committee regarding the statement of irrecoverable amounts on account of scavenging fees. The other points are noted.

105. Necessity for allowing a non-official President for the T. I. C., Trivandrum.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) urged the necessity for a non-official Chairman for the Trivandrum Committee, as repeatedly urged before the Assembly, and laid stress on the principle of appointing non-official Presidents for Municipal Bodies as also the advantages accruing therefrom. The financial condition of the Trivandrum Committee was deserving of consideration. Though it had the largest income, it was seriously handicapped in respect of its needs. The annual receipts of the Committee were about Rs. 70,000.

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